IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original)   An apparatus for displaying a status to a user when digital programming is not being displayed or detected when programming a channel map comprising:

an RF receiver to convert an RF signal to a digital bit stream, said RF receiver including a software module that evaluates a signal strength of a received RF signal and outputs an RF signal strength indicator value that is automatically displayed if television programming is not being displayed or detected when programming the channel map or under control of a user;

. a transport demultiplexer to convert the digital bit stream into its constituent packets, said transport demultiplexer including a software module that evaluates a transport signal and provides a transport signal validity indicator value that is automatically displayed if television programming is not being displayed or detected when programming the channel map or under control of a user; and

a decoder to convert the packets into a television signal, said decoder including a software module that evaluates a parsing information and provides a parsing validity indicator value that is automatically displayed if television programming is not being displayed or detected when programming the channel map or under control of a user.

2.   (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the RF signal strength indicator value comprises a quantitative indicator.

3.   (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the RF signal strength indicator value comprises a qualitative indicator.

4.   (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transport signal indicator value comprises a qualitative indicator.

5.   (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transport signal indicator value comprises a quantitative indicator.

6.   (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parsing indicator value comprises a qualitative indicator.

7.   (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parsing indicator value comprises a quantitative indicator.

8.   (Original)   A method for displaying a status to a television viewer comprising:
evaluating a signal strength of a received RF signal and creating an RF signal strength indicator value;

evaluating a transport signal and creating a transport signal validity indicator value;

evaluating the parsing information and creating a parsing validity indicator value; and

displaying automatically the RF signal strength indicator value, the transport signal validity indicator value and the parsing validity indicator value if television programming is not being displayed or detected when programming a channel map or under control of a user.

9.   (Original)   The method according to claim 8, wherein the RF signal strength indicator value comprises a quantitative indicator.

10.   (Original)   The method according to claim 8, wherein the RF signal strength indicator value comprises a qualitative indicator.

11.   (Original)   The method according to claim 8, wherein the transport signal indicator value comprises a qualitative indicator.

12.   (Original)   The method according to claim 8, wherein the transport signal indicator value comprises a quantitative indicator.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the parsing indicator value comprises a qualitative indicator.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the parsing indicator value comprises a quantitative indicator.

15. (Original) A method for displaying a status to a television viewer comprising:

creating an RF signal strength indicator value indicative of a received RF signal strength;

creating a transport signal validity indicator value indicative of a validity of a received transport signal;

creating a parsing validity indicator value indicative of a validity of received parsing information; and

displaying automatically the RF signal strength indicator value, the transport signal validity indicator value and the parsing validity indicator value if television programming is not being displayed or detected when programming a channel map or under control of a user.

16 - 20. (Canceled)